



Mahasamadhi Day: Remembrance and Rededication



Aug.3 is a day of great significance at CM. At CMLA, as each year, it was day marked with prayer, thoughtful messages and music. The Mahasamadhi day of our beloved Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda was a time for all members to rededicate themselves to Gurudev, his work and his message.

The evening began with the Guru Paduka puja conducted by dedicated members of CMLA with guidance from Swami Ishwarananda. Those present chanted along the ashtotra namavali, the Guru Stotram and Guru Paduka Stotram. Swaranjali, the adult bhajan group, moved everyone with their soulful singing in praise of Guru and Gurudev.

Swamiji relayed Gururji Swami Tejomayananda's message on the occasion and urged all to pay homage to Gurudev through word and deed. Focus on the three S's he said: Swadhyaya where even one inspiring thought will go toward bettering our lives; Sadhana so we do at least one thing a day that will enhance us internally and make us a bit purer and Seva where instead of just doing what we are told to do, making us mere servants, to take initiative and do it from the heart.

The evening ended with arati and prasad.

Holy Target: 500 Paduka Pujas



At the initiative of Swami Ishwarananda, CMLA will be celebrating Puja Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda's birth centenary from 2011 to 2016 with Paduka Pujas. CMLA families around greater Southern California will conduct 500 Guru Paduka Pujas as a means to rededicating themselves to the grand vision of Gurudev.

The first of the pujas was conducted on Mahasamadhi day at Rameshwaram. Since then several members have done it in groups and at their homes. The pujas are conducted by Swamiji or Acharya Mahadevi. At the conclusion of the puja, each family receives the 'Holy Gita' penned by Gurudev, a step-by-step guidebook on conducting the puja independently and a framed image of Gurudev.

To host a paduka puja please call Rekha Acharya at 714.749.0998

Janmashtami Celebrated



Krishna Janmashtami was celebrated in Rameshwaram on August 21. Devotees watched the puja and participated by chanting the slokas with reverence. Later, Swaranjali presented bhajans related to the Lord which was enjoyed by all.

In the San Fernando Valley, balavihar children, even though closed for summer, came together and participated with joy and understanding in the celebrations held at the Valley Hindu temple on August 21. They presented bhajans on Radha-Krishna and danced a Kathak item choreographed to a Radha -Krishna dhun. Children also impressed by chanting verses from the Bhagavad Gita learned in class. As a finale, students and teachers together recited the Madhuraashtakam.

Lively Bhajans at Rameshwaram Temple



Janaki Sreesha on Aug. 10 at the behest of Chinmaya Swaranjali rendered some delightful bhajans in the temple hall at Rameshwaram. A visiting musician from India, she preceded almost each song with a clearly enunciated sloka, proceeding on to sing the glory of the particular deity. Sreesha's recital covered a wide range from the pantheon of gods with a special emphasis on Lord Krishna. Swami Ishwarananda who spoke briefly at the conclusion of the event, pointed out that it was the first concert to have been held at the temple hall and also the first to have been spearheaded by the Swaranjali group.

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